

EASTER 2010

Open door



**MAKE A SIMNEL CAKE
FOR EASTER**

**WIN A FAMILY PASS TO
CORAL REEF**

For you and your family to enjoy and explore

Generous children in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire have raised thousands of pounds to help Haitians affected by the devastating earthquake.

Zak, eight, a pupil at Bishop Loveday CE Primary School, Bodicote, Oxfordshire donated the money he had been saving for a new Playstation game. Headteacher Christine Woodward said: "I was so impressed. I'm not sure I'd have been able to do that when I was a child." Zak was among pupils who stuck their pennies on a sheet with a hand printed on it, and wrote prayers and messages for Haiti inside the hand. Money from Bishop Loveday will be donated to Banbury based Christian housing charity, Habitat for Humanity for its race to rebuild sturdy homes for Haitians before the hurricane season in May.

Children at Berkshire's Binfield CE Primary School got first hand experience of life in a makeshift shelter. Their experiences inspired them to raise more than £1,500 mainly for international disaster charity Shelterbox but also for the UNICEF Children's Fund. They paid 50p each to wear their pyjamas to school, held a coffee morning for parents followed by a toy and book sale and carried out odd jobs.

At Deddington CE Primary School, in Oxfordshire, pupils raised £320 by holding a 'pennies round the playground' event. Christ the Sower School in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, raised £675 through a non-uniform day and cake sales.

HELPING HAITI



Children attend a class in a makeshift camp at the Petition ville club in Port-au-Prince.

Pic: Reuters

EASTER is all about new life and new beginnings. Find out more in the Bible (Luke 22 - 24).

You may like to say a prayer together as a family at Easter for Haiti.

Go to the back page for a prayer written by Serena, seven, of Bishop Loveday CE School, Bodicote.

PHOTO BOOST

"I look great," said one teenage girl, sounding surprised and beaming at the results of a photo shoot.

The session was arranged by Oxford Youth Works, a charity that provides Christian mentors to build long term relationships with young people. The aim was to boost the girls' self esteem and body image. Hannah Woods, youth worker, said: "We watched *The Devil Wears Prada* and discussed the issues in the film, before we had the photo shoot done. It was a chance for the group to bond together and it was brilliant, it was really good fun. Dave Richards, a photographer friend of OYW made it all possible by donating time and sourcing a local studio."



Lisa pictured by Dave Richards

GETTING DOWN AND DIRTY

If church doesn't sound a likely place to get down and dirty with the family this Easter then you obviously haven't heard of Messy Church. Founded by St Wilfrid's Church in Portsmouth in 2004 as a way of gripping the imagination of local families, Messy Church proved such a successful formula that there are now Messy sessions as far afield as Denmark and Australia. The idea is simply for families to enjoy some fun activity time together!

Here in the Oxford Diocese families are obviously loving getting Messy. In Cholsey Alicia celebrated her ninth birthday at the February activity day.



George shows off the sock puppet he made at Messy Church, Cholsey.

Organiser Sue Avery says a school Messy event was popular with thank you letters

POCKET PRAYERS FOR CHILDREN

What better place to start learning to pray than the prayer Jesus taught his friends?

Using the Lord's Prayer as a framework, *Pocket Prayers for Children* brings together traditional and modern prayers from around the world and from writers of all ages. It provides an ideal way for parents and children to explore prayer together.

Open Door has four copies to give away this Easter. To be in with a chance of winning, send your name and address, on a postcard, to *Pocket Prayers for Children*, *Open Door*, Diocesan Church House, North Hinksey Lane, Oxford OX2 0NB, to reach us no later than Friday 16 April.

Praying

In Matthew 6, vs 5 – 15, you can find out what Jesus tells his disciples about prayer, as well as the Lord's Prayer. If you don't have a Bible handy, look it up online at www.biblegateway.org



THE HOUSE THAT YOU BUILT

As work goes on to help rebuild the shattered lives of people in Haiti, we give thanks for having a roof over our own heads. This Easter, as we remember how lucky we are, why not build your own junk-model home for a toy, pet or just for fun.

You will need:

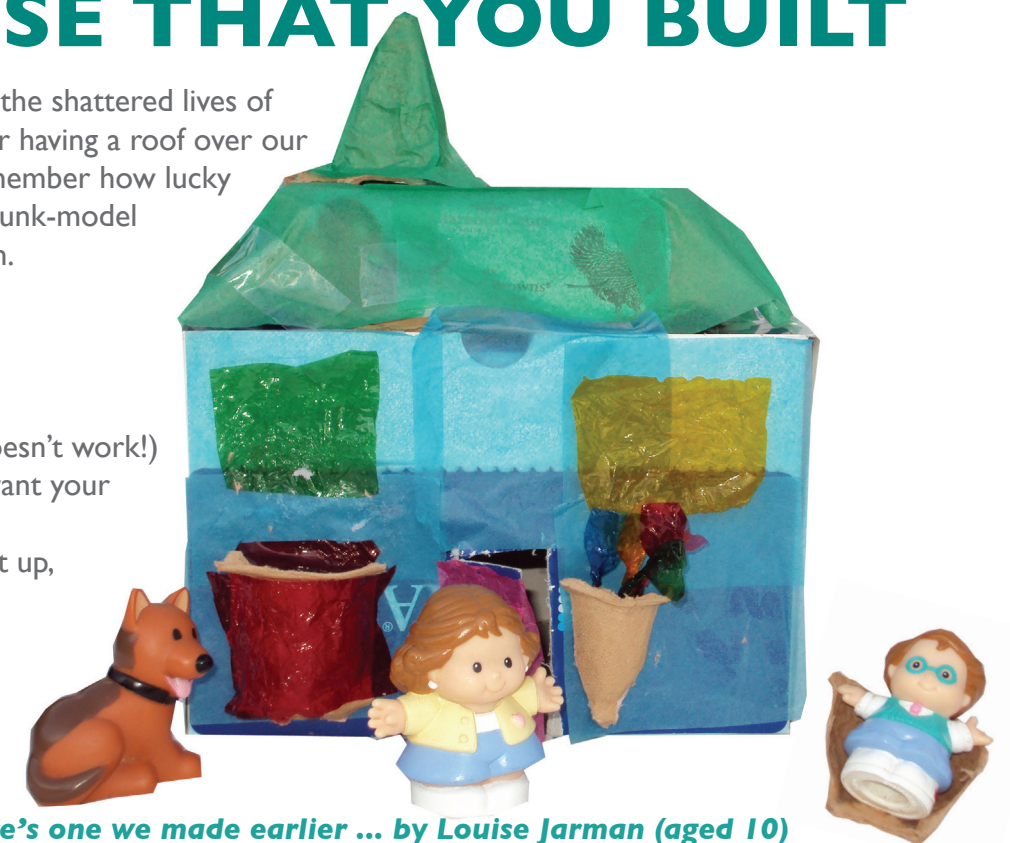
Glue

Sticky tape (for when the glue doesn't work!)

At least one box (as big as you want your home to be)

Anything else that's free to be cut up, recycled and glued on
Aprons

Now all you have to do is roll up your sleeves, let your imagination flow, and get stuck in.



Here's one we made earlier ... by Louise Jarman (aged 10)

MAKE AN EASTER SIMNEL CAKE

This Easter Day cake is traditionally decorated with eleven balls of marzipan to represent the Apostles.

INGREDIENTS:

230g plain flour; 1½ teaspoons baking powder
A pinch of salt; 175g unsalted butter, softened
175g soft light brown muscovado sugar
4 large free-range eggs, beaten to mix
50g ground almonds; 350g mixed dried fruit
100g glace cherries, rinsed, dried and halved
100g bar Divine dark (70%) chocolate, roughly chopped
2 tablespoons milk; 450g white marzipan
A little apricot jam or sherry for brushing

TO DECORATE:

Dubble speckled eggs, a ribbon, 20.5cm/8in round, deep cake tin or springform, greased and lined.

Heat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Sift the flour, baking powder and salt on to a sheet of greaseproof paper and set aside until needed.

Beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs adding the ground almonds with the last egg. Fold in the flour followed by the dried fruit, cherries, chocolate and milk. Spoon half of the mixture into the tin and spread evenly. Roll out one third of the marzipan to a circle slightly smaller than the tin. Set in on top of the cake the cover with the rest of the cake mixture. Spread evenly then make a slight hollow in the centre. Bake for 30 minutes. Reduce the temperature to 170C/325F/Gas 3 and bake for a further 60 to 70 minutes or until a skewer inserted in to the centre of the cake comes out clean. Leave to cool on a wire rack. Remove from the tin and discard the lining paper. Roll out two-thirds of the remaining marzipan to fit the top of the cake. Brush the top of the cake with warm apricot jam or sherry. Set the marzipan disc on top. Shape the rest of the marzipan into 11 balls and arrange around the edge. Fill the centre with miniature eggs and finish with a ribbon.

For more recipes visit www.divinechocolate.com



Simnel Cake by Linda Collister



LEAVES OF LIFE

Children can explore the message behind the Easter story with the Children's Society Leaves of Life campaign. Churches and schools are taking part, giving children the chance to write or draw their thoughts on prayer leaves that are then fixed to a Tree of Life.

For more information see www.childrenssociety.org.uk/leaves

A PRAYER FOR HAITI

Heavenly Father

Please bless the people of Haiti who have survived the earthquake. Bless the leaders around the world to come together and give aid and help to the people. Please help us all to love and help one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

There will be fast moving wacky and wild action at the Diocese's **Doug Horley Praise Party** on May 22.

The event, aimed at children aged five to 11, will include funky dance, hilarious puppets and even real, live wild animals. For more information contact the Diocesan Children's Advisor on yvonne.morris@oxford.anglican.org



WIN A FAMILY PASS TO CORAL REEF WATERWORLD

The winner of this edition's contest will really get to make a splash with their prize - a family pass for two adults and two children to enjoy the pools and rides at Bracknell's Coral Reef.

Ride the Boa Constrictor fast slide, or the Python family slide while tots can play in the Little Corals toddlers' pool. And while the kids enjoy the fun, adults can kick back and relax in Sauna World.

To stand a chance of winning send your name, age and address to Coral Reef Competition, Open Door, Diocesan Church House, Oxford OX2 0NB. The closing date for entries is **Friday 16 April.**



www.achurchnearyou.com

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